

# The Woman's Page of The Times-Dispatch

## Just an Illustration

With the title, "It's Responsibility That Kills," you will find as a front-piece in a recent magazine a very interesting picture. I wonder if you saw it. This is the picture of a small girl, looking very sleepy, small brother along the beach. I am sure the tears on her cheeks are hot and the wind has blown her hair and lots of sand into her eyes and the brother grows heavier by many pounds every step she takes. And he is so sleepy! There isn't the slightest use to try to wake him up, because it is time for him to go to bed, and what care he that his own little crib is not at hand. They must have played quite happily all morning with the big watering pot and bucket to fill with sand and somebody's mother must have been very busy with the sewing that she did not look out to see that weary little figure struggling with a sleeping lump of mankind, tired of play and ready for bed. Life is a weary waste, and one cannot help the tears, and it was such a happy day!

Perhaps once, a long time ago, you, too, helped to take care of little brothers and sisters, and they would swallow all the button books and take on tons of coal down by the bureau when you were doing sums. They couldn't run and one must needs stay out of all the fascinating games of "Hide-and-Seek" and "Tag" because the youngest baby could not even try to play. Cries of "Oh, what'd you bring him for?" arose on all sides when you appeared in the midst of your own circle of friends. None of your things were sacred. Ruthlessly, his small feet trod upon your elaborate paper-doll house spread on the nursery floor, and bang! went the new blue doll's head on the hearth. It is generally conceded a small brother is scarcely a respecter of persons, but blue dolls have only an allotted existence after all.

As for the nurse's evening off, she seemed never to have an evening on in your mind, and what with "second Sunday's communion" and a generous number of shopping days, one's period of responsibility in the nursery, dingy, dingy, dingy, what was the use of getting out of school? But there were all sorts of wonderful days when you took the bureau drawers all out, regardless of contents, and played the wildest games in the world. All the family sailed in boats across the unprotesting front of a feather bed, and by only the slightest turn in the world a long procession of cars piled the breadth of the country—even if it was only a nice brown carpet that wouldn't "spot." Days when one was sorry for one's nose, and the legs on the table being staged-coach, groaned beneath its burden of children all wrapped in a quilt and shooting a reckless array of tooth brushes at Indians behind the clothes rack.

Those little brothers and sisters have grown up, perhaps, with a bit, sweet love for each other and understanding hearts that nothing else in the whole world counts against. Maybe you were tired the time the baby cried so long, but there was his soft little arms around your neck seeking protection, and he proved such an affable victim if the rest absolutely refused to be laid by the heels and scolded when occasion might demand. But perhaps, you didn't have any brother to mind.

BRYANT WITT.

## Unique Exhibition.

A unique exposition opened in Berlin recently, in which royal princesses, duchesses and other social leaders are competing for prizes in the art of setting and decorating a table. One of the moving spirits of the affair is Princess August Wilhelm, of Prussia, the Kaiser's daughter-in-law.

The rules provide that each competitor shall personally design her table scheme and perform the manual labor connected with preparing it. One of the most interesting entries is the table of Frau von Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, wife of the multimillionaire banker. It is a polished walnut table laid in old English fashion without a cloth, with silver plates. In the center stands an antique Chinese vase filled with flowers grown in Frau von Mendelssohn-Bartholdy's own greenhouses. Count Montgolfier is competing with a table laid for a hunting supper.

Half hidden under the plate reserved for the guest of honor is an "entree" consisting of a dog collar of pearls, while over the chair will hang a priceless ermine cape marked "desert." All the other decorations are snow white. Fraulein Julie Kulp, the concert singer, entitles her table, "How a Wife Nourishes Her Husband," while another popular artist, Fraulein Angelina Gurlitt Schuler, shows a table labeled "Indiscretions," filled with the breakfast dainties a woman of fashion enjoys in the privacy of her own boudoir.

## Grape Fruit Dishes.

Grape fruit is refreshing and cleansing to the system, and at the same time a tonic, without the unpleasant effects of quinine. Some persons have cultivated the taste for it and enjoy eating it without sugar, which is, no doubt, the most healthful way, but as a general thing twice as much sugar is required with it as with any other citrus fruit.

The acid and bitter taste both have to be combated by sugar. Wine is used by many with it, and the combination of maple sugar is also considered a delicacy. The usual way of serving it is to cut the fruit in half, remove seeds and fibrous portions of the skin with a sharp knife, cut out the core, and fill the centre with sugar; set on ice to get very cold.

If the pulp is not separated from its section, the difficulty of eating spoils half the pleasure in the fruit. When served for more formal occasions, grape fruit may be dotted with candied or maraschino cherries.

Hostesses who have handsome grape fruit glasses, cut in large pieces, cover it with sugar and maraschino cherries, or pieces of ginger, and heap it in the small inner glass. The outer one is filled with shaved ice.

Grape fruit salad is an excellent digester at the close of a heavy meal. It is better with French dressing than with mayonnaise, and should be marinated for at least half an hour before serving. Ices and sherbets of grape fruit are delicious. The use of halves of grape fruit as receptacles for oyster cocktails is by no means a new idea, and yet it is one of those up-to-date combinations of flavors that cannot be too widely known.

To prepare the grape fruit for this purpose the cook has to remove the seeds and core, and then, having filled the centre with small raw oysters, dress them, as for a cocktail, with tomato ketchup, grated horseradish, tabasco sauce, etc., without, of course, and marinate in a bowl on the left side. Of course, such heels could not venture on a stone pavement, and even when indoors their owners must step with precaution, keeping mostly on her toes.



CHIC FROCKS IN R. &amp; T. TAFFETA AND TUB SILK.

L'Art de la Mode.

## Notes and Novelties

The coin handkerchief is an attractive little novelty, so invaluable that it seems difficult to explain why it was never thought of before. It is arranged for safety in carrying the bits of silver for collection at church or for street car fare at a time when one would wish to dispense with the necessity of carrying a purse. One of these handkerchiefs is a nine-inch square of fine linen lawn, hemstitched by hand and edged with a narrow baby Irish edge, crocheted on the fabric. Two baby Irish roses, wrought in No. 100 cotton, with a row of openwork or two around them, to bring it to a diameter rather larger than a half dollar, are set back to back in one corner of the handkerchief.

They are arranged exactly together, but without the fabric being cut between them. One is firmly stitched on around the whole circumference, but the other is left open on one side, so that the coin may be slipped under the rose, and on the loose edge is worked a buttonhole loop to fasten over a tiny lace wash button and secure the contents of the wee pocket from slipping out. Any woman who is doted with a needle may evolve new applications of this idea, as the medallions can be made of any sort of lace.

At a large reception in Washington lately a young society woman wore with her dancing gown of white satin and tulle fairylike slippers of white satin with high heels of sparkling cut glass. The heels, cut in a beautiful rose pattern, sent forth wonderful, scintillating gleams of rose, blue and violet as their wearer walked and danced.

Now all the high-class bootmakers in Washington are busy taking orders for boots with cut glass heels, and a pair of these boots, made of black satin and equipped with French heels of cut glass and buttons of crystal, were worn last week by a youthful matron, with a bridge gown of dark color. Of course, such heels could not venture on a stone pavement, and even when indoors their owners must step with precaution, keeping mostly on her toes.

for if a crash should come the result might be disastrous to her equilibrium and her dignity.

**A Dressmaking Hint.**  
In making one of the large cape collars of net or other material, now so fashionable, do not attempt to sew the trimming around the net collar or baste the ordinary way, for it is next to impossible to prevent a drawn and puckered effect. Baste the big circle of sheer fabric on a sheet of wrapping paper, then baste the lace or insertion trimming outside of this circle along the outer edge of the trimming. Now draw up the inner edge of the trimming with a running basting thread until it fits exactly over the edge of the circular collar. Baste trimming to hold collar and trimming to the paper, and you can proceed at leisure to finish the seam and the edge in a dainty manner.

**Children's Millinery.**  
Hats and quaint bonnets for little girls are fashioned of black velvet, satin or beaver.

Black hats have a certain air of richness and distinction about them not produced by colors.

These are usually trimmed with clusters of tiny berries made of brightly colored silk or with sprays of miniature roses and foliage fashioned of satin.

Shirred velvet hats are extremely fashionable when worn with coats of black velvet, caracul or white cone. Tiny, close-fitting caps of sealskin are extremely smart. A band of ermine finished by a bow at the left side makes a charming trimming for these.

Tiny satin roses and forget-me-nots daintily trim these stunning models.

## Buttons for Spring

The new buttons for spring, while exceedingly varied in shape, materials and colors employed, continue as modest in effect as those shown in the fall, being as unlike the brilliant jewel and metal buttons of a year ago as can be imagined. The new buttons, as a whole, are intended to match the materials of the suits and coats on which they are to be used. These buttons are made of gallinix, which material is brought out to imitate ivory, tortoise shell and bone, as well as some of the semiprecious stones, such as jade, lapis lazuli, etc. There are beautiful effects that are peculiar to gallinix itself. These latter are tinted in beautiful dull but translucent colors, or black, and frequently show a streaked or mottled effect, produced with a darker shade of the color of the bottom, or with gold dust. Gallinix is frequently combined with pearl, either white, smoked or tinted.

White glass and porcelain buttons often have a touch of black lace or gold in the form of fine rings or stripes. White buttons of glass, porcelain, gallinix, ivory, pyroxylin and pearl, alone or in combination, are used on white serge suits and dresses, which will be very fashionable. Clear crystal buttons will also be used for this purpose. There are also hand-painted porcelain effects for these costumes. White colored crystal is used in emerald, amethyst, ruby, sapphire and topaz colorings, the majority of new effects are intended to match the predominant color in the new suitings, some of these being gray, tan and dark colors, or mottled, streaked and graded tones for mixed suitings. Very attractive effects are made of enameled wood in solid color and in mottled and streaked effects.

The predominating forms in the new buttons are the flat, slightly convex or concave shape, divided up into a large, or small, button piece with a rim in a contrasting material. There are square and square-shaped buttons with round corners. Again, a round button may have an applied centre of contrasting material in a square shape.

## Woman Who Lives Alone

A woman who is so delicate that she might, with a clear conscience, adopt invalid ways, was asked why she stayed in her drawing room until 10 o'clock each night.

"I never go to bed until the maids close the house," was the reply, "as it is bad for the discipline of the household. A woman living alone, as I do, cannot afford to do that."

It is a pity more women who live alone do not share this view. There is nothing easier, as there is nothing more common, than for a woman with only herself to consult to grow indifferent in her style of living. She starts with good intentions, permits small lapses and soon adopts the line of least resistance.

This is demoralizing to the woman herself, as well as to her servants. Many women with a small income keep house alone rather than live in the home of a relative. Such a life may be as full, as interesting and as well regulated as if there were a husband and sons to cater to. It depends on the woman.

Let her once get the habit of allowing lapses, and soon her house is so disordered that her managers suffer. The maids in a lax household really prefer system and order—if they are at all well trained or used to refined living. The mistress who has few rules is often exacting and inconsistent of the hours and feelings of her dependents. She may say, "Anything will do." Then, when the cook takes her at her word, there may be a sudden influx of company and consequent flurry and worry.

A woman who lives alone should have her meals as regularly, her table as definitely appointed, the duties of her maids as well defined, and be as firm in exacting good work as if she were at the head of a large family.

A tray luncheon is not conducive to the discipline of a household. If a maid usually brings food to one's sitting room she will be aggrieved when asked to set the table formally, and it is not good for the mistress. Whether from business or inertia the tray habit is formed, it is a bad one; every one

needs the break in the day created by going to the dining room for a well-served, dainty meal.

The woman who lives alone must watch lest she grow uncouth. If she does not live according to the ways of her class at home, her manners are bound to suffer; even her table manners. If you habitually eat your meals with a book in one hand or elbows propped on the table you unconsciously offend at the table of others. Nor is there the friendly family criticism to keep you from ignoring social graces.

Dyspepsia is fast on the trail of lax ways of living. Too many women who live alone nibble. They may not have large appetites, so think it not worth while to eat sufficient food or at regular hours. Before they know it their digestion goes and the stomach specialist comes. He, unless realizing his patient's disordered life, gropes blindly for causes when a little system and firm could cure.

One danger of the lonely life is becoming self-centered, bitter and indifferent to one's friends.

There is nothing easier than to drop out of one's place in society. One must do her part. If she fails to do it she has only herself to blame when invitations pass her by and society neglects. Just because circumstances make her life lonely must she acquire outside interests and make effort to keep herself in touch with people.

Then the woman who lives alone must guard against getting cranky and selfish. With only one's self to consider it takes a strong nature not to grow spoiled, opinionated, and disregarding of the rights of others. If sound and sweet in heart qualities, there may be indifference in one's dress or manner. With only one's mirror for critic and one's self for audience, it is easy to slip up in one's grooming and conversation.

It saves time to omit the dainty service, the carefully set table, the toilet appointments which must be dusted, but the woman who goes in for such economy makes a bad investment.

## Growing Fashion for Indoor Frocks

This is serious talk that one hears everywhere concerning the outgrowth of the suit and the coming of the frock. Not that any one believes for a moment that it is possible to universally abandon the coat and skirt for spring and summer, for, although it is a new innovation counting by decades, still it is too much a part of the Anglo-Saxon wardrobe to be given up without a terrific struggle.

It is true that we are apt to take the coat and skirt for granted as a natural costume for all the civilized world that wears clothes, but it is really an Anglo-Saxon costume indulged in by the fashionable elements of other nations, but by no means considered a necessity as it is with us.

Even the French are not too partial to it, although they have taken it up within the last ten years with a lukewarm degree of enthusiasm. Even now they refer to it as an American fashion, showing that they do not consider it an integral part of their costume.

After all, the one-piece frock is a fundamental part of our clothes, and it is only in America that it has been almost entirely dropped for the more mannish costume. Time was when no American woman, whether of high or low degree, thought of choosing any other kind of a street costume except this one, and she then left her blouses to chance. She wore white ones constantly for many years, until the fashion changed, and although she accepted the edict for the self-colored blouse, she did not relinquish the wash waist.

When the one-piece frock was brought into fashion, made of woolen stuffs of linen, and of silk, she was not inclined to accept it wholeheartedly. She looked upon it as an innovation, forgetting that it was the original way to clothe one's self, and she rather resented its attempted rivalry with the coat suit.

She felt that it was French, that it was not her kind of dressing for the street, that it necessitated a top coat, and, in other words, it was a nuisance. She turned her back upon it and went on buying jackets and skirts.

But the dressmaker was not to be so easily won. She was mightier, and they gave a chance to sell twice as many clothes by insisting upon the one-piece frock as a substitute for the mannish suit, and so they kept on making it in all kinds of fabrics, offering it to those who wanted it and those who did not want it.

Paris had an easy time with it. The European dearly loves a one-piece gown; the French woman, in particular, has never seen the artistic merit of the divided line from shoulder to heel. She has worn the white shirt-waist, but she has demurred against its fitness, so she has bought one-piece frocks by the hundreds and wondered why her American sister did not do the same.

Steadily, if slowly, however, the one-piece frock has made its way with the Anglo-Saxon during the last two years, and it has been more pronounced since November this year than for a dozen years. It has been made in alluring ways and of all kinds of fabrics, such as shot taffeta, striped corduroy and velvet, wool back satin, cheviot, camel's hair and plush-like ratine. These were worn under the universal top coat, the popularity of which would explain in some measure the wide acceptance of the frock.

Women who have never owned a top coat, and who plunged wildly into the new luxury this autumn when the shops sold them at every price, found that they were no good over a coat suit, and that to wear them fully over a skirt and blouse had two disadvantages: first, it used up the skirt of the suit, and left the coat fresh; and when removed one did not present a very smart appearance.

Therefore, the one-piece frock had to be gotten for the long coat, and this might have been what the shops reckoned on when they presented the two garments at the same time.

While the air is full of rumors of spring fashion, the air is also full of fables and zero weather. It is pleasant to hear about spring, but it is not possible to wear thin clothes in the home of springing it any nearer. So, many women are making up snappy frocks of smart pieces of fabric which they can find at reasonable prices in short lengths at all the shops these days.

Another trick I heard of was to get from the fashionable tailors odd lengths of a fabric that they have not used up during the winter season. They do not want to carry them over at this time of the year, and there is not enough of the one piece to make a coat and skirt, but it will make a one-piece frock.

Almost any woman is willing to put some money into a gown of this sort, and gamble on the chance of wearing it for three months at least. A woman who acted on this chance had a black velvet one-piece frock made up the other day which is so successful that she likes it better than her other clothes.

She got a short length in a good way and made a narrow skirt cut out at the ankles, and fastened up the middle of the front under shallow, rounded scallops, which were bound with braid, and in the centre of which was placed a black arabic button. As waist line was normal, and girdled with a patent leather belt.

The bodice was cut on simple slim lines with armholes two inches below the normal, and bound with a thick cord of silk braid. The fastening of the bodice was also up the front, under the same kind of scallops used on the skirt. There was a shallow V-shaped gimp made of white chiffon cloth without tucks, which extended into a boxed collar, and this the yoke also fastened up the front, under the same kind of scallops, which were overcast with a buttonhole stitch in violet silk floss.

The sleeves were full length, hanging a trifle loose from their low armholes, and their gathered snugly into the wrist with three braid buttons fastened through three scallops.

There was no lining to the gown, except a low detachable one of white china silk used in the bodice.—E. C. HARRIS.

**To Wash China and Glassware.**—When washing fine china do not use hot water, for the heat will crack the surface, and no woman wants her pretty dishes ruined by this crackling lines. In washing china which has a gold or openwork pattern a brush should be used, as dust and dirt creep into the lines around the figures and settle in the interstices and cannot be removed by washing with a cloth. Soft wood ashes rubbed with a cloth will remove ordinary stains.